



DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INCORPORATED

A Service Sorority Founded in 1913

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Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Supports March for Our Lives and Calls for Gun Reform Policies

WASHINGTON – The National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Beverly E. Smith, released a statement on behalf of the service organization in support of the March for Our Lives and the tens of thousands of students as they and the American people demand gun reform policies that protect innocent children from violence:

“As an organization whose history of social activism was launched by college-aged women in 1913, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. has long recognized the critical role that American youth play as catalysts for positive social change. We applaud the young Americans who are leading rallies all over our country today in support of common sense measures to curb gun violence. When young Americans come alive, democracy becomes more vibrant. We wholeheartedly support the March for Our Lives and urge solutions to address gun violence in every corner of America.

Gun violence is a plague on American life. Delta Sigma Theta has long held the position that we can save thousands of American lives with common sense measures such as universal background checks, waiting periods for gun purchase and raising the gun purchase age to twenty-one. Unfettered, research will yield high-tech solutions such as face recognition and trigger locks. Eventually, America must address our preoccupation with firearms. No right is absolute.

According to a Washington Post analysis, more than 187,000 students have been touched by gun violence during the school day at American elementary or secondary schools since the Columbine massacre of 1999. In the urban communities where many of our members live, students face gun violence on the way to or on the way home from school at epidemic levels. This crisis touches every segment of American society.

This is a public health crisis that deserves the focused, solution-oriented attention of our leaders. We hope that President Trump, Congress and state and local elected officials will heed the strong message our children have sent with today's protests but if they don't, our members stand ready to use our voices to speak for them on Election Day.”

Beverly E. Smith
National President & CEO

ABOUT DELTA SIGMA THETA

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was founded in 1913 on the campus of Howard University to promote academic excellence; to provide scholarships; to provide support to the underserved; educate and stimulate participation in the establishment of positive public policy; and to highlight issues and provide solutions for problems in their communities. Today Delta Sigma Theta Sorority has over 250,000 initiated members and more than 900 chapters worldwide. The Sorority uses its Five-Point Programmatic Thrust of economic development, educational development, international awareness and involvement, physical and mental health, and political awareness and involvement to create its national programs. # # #